



# HAH Happenings

## March 2018



The Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons  
P.O. Box 202, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-0202

631.537.2223 [hahgarden.org](http://hahgarden.org)  
at the Bridgehampton Community House

### HAH Monthly Lecture - Sunday, March 11, 2018 - 2 pm



**Bill Noble**

#### **“Imaginary Gardens with Real Toads in Them”**

The gardens that speak to me the most are those of extraordinary plantsmen and women, both contemporary and from the past, who have grasped the raw material of a site and through their engagement with place have created gardens both eloquent and useful. I have been inspired by gardens conceived in traditional styles as well as those that have pioneered new plants and planting styles. Some of the questions I try to answer in a garden are how does it relate to the larger landscape, what design concepts are at work, and what role do plants play in the garden? In this talk I will survey some contemporary gardens with an inspiring sense of place as well as some from the past that have recently been restored. What qualities do historic gardens possess that make them relevant today? And how can some contemporary gardens continue into the future? What these gardens have in common, as Marianne Moore puts it, is “a place for the genuine.”

For thirty years Bill Noble has worked as a garden designer and professional in garden preservation. As Director of Preservation for the Garden Conservancy, he was instrumental in the preservation and restoration of dozens of gardens throughout the United States. He is currently active in designing new gardens and revitalizing existing gardens throughout New England. His own garden in Norwich, Vermont, is included in the Smithsonian Institution’s Archive of American Gardens, and has been featured in Martha Stewart Living, House & Garden, The New York Times and Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration: 25 Years of the Garden.

**HAH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018 @ 10AM sharp - NOON**

#### **LATE-WINTER AND EARLY SPRING PRUNING TECHNIQUES**

This session will feature several, brief, how-to videos by contributors to Fine Gardening magazine on how and when to prune Crape Myrtles, Hydrangeas, Blueberries shrubs, woody sub-shrubs, Roses, Callicarpa (beautyberry), Cotinus (smokebush), and Conifers, as well as removing suckers, root pruning, dead, and diseased wood. We'll also describe the various tools that can be used as well as watch a video on how to sharpen them. And of course, bring all your questions!

Pamela Harwood, Moderator



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

Helen Keller

March is a much maligned month. Where others see cold and foreboding, I see a pathway to spring. I see the lion and the lamb and I embrace them both.

In preparation for the Spring Preview Party and Plant Sale, you should have received a "Friends of HAH" letter in the mail. Please consider a special donation to HAH in support of our on-going programming that includes lectures, workshops, library, newsletter, website, roundtables and book groups to name just a few! Being a friend does come with extra benefits; you and a guest may arrive a full hour early to beat the rush to purchase the most coveted plants! After shopping, you can relax, enjoy a beverage, sample our delicious hors d'oeuvres and peruse and bid on our always fabulous and always different Container Auction! The Preview Party is a fun evening with friends who love plants and who want to help further the mission of HAH.

I'll see you in the garden AND at the HAH Preview Party and Plant Sale, Friday May 18th and Saturday May 19th,

*Janet*



## HAH 2018

### OFFICERS: (an officer serves for a 1 year term)

President	Janet Donohoe Ollinger
First Vice President	Bettina Benson
Second Vice President	Susan Brackett
Recording Secretary	Alicia Whitaker
Corresponding Secretary	Erika Shank
Treasurer	Pamela Harwood

### DIRECTORS: (a director serves for a 3 year term)

Elaine Peterson	2018
Sarah Alford	2018
Rick Bogusch	2019
Erik Brockmeyer	2019
Jeffrey Glick	2020
Marie DiMonte	2020

On occasion the board may appoint someone to fill an unexpired term if necessary.

### LIBRARY CHAIR (serves on the board with a vote)

Susan Kennedy Zeller

### NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE EDITOR

Elaine Peterson

[hahmember@optonline.net](mailto:hahmember@optonline.net)

Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please include NL in the subject line.

### MAILING

John Benson

### PHOTOS

George Biercuk, Bill Noble, Elaine Peterson, Erika Shank

SAVE THE DATES!  
HAH GARDEN FAIR AND  
PREVIEW PARTY  
MAY 18 & 19, 2018

THE HAH BOOK GROUP  
meets next on

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH  
AT 11 AM in the HAH Library

The reviewers and their books are:

Carleen Borsella:  
The Company of Trees - Thomas Parkenham

Janet Ollinger:  
Head Gardeners - Ambra Edwards

Erika Shank:  
Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style  
- Joseph Tychonievich

## Friends of the Garden (FOG)

Thank you to all 2017's volunteers to FOG especially Bettina Benson, Carole Campolo, Don Cirillo, Joan DiMonda, Marie DiMonte, Antone Hugel, and Ruth Richards who braved the heat and the cold but also enjoyed themselves.

Nothing would have been accomplished without you. Hope to see you this year. New members are always welcome.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday April 3 at 10AM  
The dates after that will be:

Tuesdays May 1, May 29, June 26, July 24, August 21, September 18, October 16, and November 13.  
Cornelia Bostwick

One of our favorite community partners, **Bridge Gardens**, is offering **HAH members** a reduced membership fee. HAH members in good standing for 2018 can secure membership to Bridge Gardens for 2018 at a reduced rate of \$65 (a \$75 value). All members of Bridge Gardens receive free or reduced fee admission to their workshops and programs, including music nights and lecture series. Anyone interested in purchasing a membership may do so online, through their website [www.peconiclandtrust.org](http://www.peconiclandtrust.org), at Bridge Gardens where Rick Bogusch has membership forms, or by contacting Robin Harris at their office at 631.283.3195, ext. 19.

Credit cards, cash and checks are accepted.

## Share your knowledge with fellow HAH members

HAH is an organization comprised of many individuals – the common denominator is a love of horticulture. With so much talent concentrated within one organization, how can all this knowledge be tapped?

We think the answer would be to create a resource directory which would include accomplished amateurs, professionals, garden centers & nurseries. A who's who of where to go when questions pertaining to horticulture arise. This directory would be made available to all our members and would also be included on our website, [www.hahgarden.org](http://www.hahgarden.org).

We would like to hear from you:

- If you are a Professional
  - What is your area of expertise?
- If you are a Nursery or Garden Center
  - Do you specialize in certain plants, shrubs, trees?
- If you are a Designer
  - Do you specialize in large scale, small scale properties?
  - If you would like to participate, this is what we will need from you:
- Contact information including address, telephone
- Area of expertise

Please send your replies to Estelle Rosen at [estellerosen@gmail.com](mailto:estellerosen@gmail.com) or call her if you have further questions at 917.846.4160.

## THE HAH SEED EXCHANGE PROGRAM continues before our Sunday lectures this winter and spring

If you bring donations of plant seed packets (preferably your own, labeled with variety), you will receive another package for free. If you do not have any of your own seeds to donate, you can purchase packages for \$2.00 each.

Information for starting seeds indoors and outdoors will be available.



## DEC Announces Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale at Saratoga Tree Nursery

Trees and shrubs from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Saratoga Tree Nursery are now available to public and private landowners and schools.

Spruces, pines, shrub willows, dogwoods, high bush cranberry, winged sumac, white cedar, and wetland rose are among the 50 species available. Although the public commonly thinks of flowers when talking about pollinators, before becoming butterflies and moths, caterpillars must first feed on plants, and without enough of the right plants, these insects won't make it to adulthood. Most of the State Nursery's seedlings are native, which are preferred by native caterpillars.

Most songbirds need a diet high in protein - like that found in caterpillars - to successfully raise their chicks. A single clutch needs thousands of caterpillars before they fledge. When choosing which species to plant, keep in mind that they are not all equal: oaks support nearly 400 species of caterpillars in New York, while the invasive tree of heaven (Ailanthus) doesn't support any. By planting trees that host native caterpillars, people can help provide the food sources vital to butterflies, moths and birds.

[The 2018 Tree and Shrub brochure \(PDF, 400 KB\)](#) can be found on DEC's [Spring Seedling Sale](#) web page, or by calling the Saratoga Tree Nursery at (518) 581-1439. Some species sell out quickly. Orders may be placed through May 9. Seedlings are shipped from mid-April to mid-May.

Since the opening of the Saratoga Tree Nursery in 1911, more than 1.6 billion seedlings have been produced to enhance and protect New York's environment. For more information on the history and benefits of this program, visit the [Saratoga Tree Nursery](#) web page.

## Library Footnotes <sup>1</sup> March 2018

By Susan Kennedy Zeller

### Did you know that butterflies may drink the tears of a turtle?

How do I know? Because **March 14 is Butterfly Education Day** so I perused books we have in our HAH library! Absolutely fascinating. As gardeners we have long known that monarchs are in danger due to loss of breeding habitat but they are not the only important butterfly. As plantaholics the more we know...the more we can save them from extinction ...and rescue plants they pollinate. So, treat yourself to a good read and find out more! Then add butterfly saving plants to your garden plans this year.

Here is a partial listing of some best books you can check out or review whilst in the HAH library.

**Gardening with Butterflies**, by the Xerces Society. 2016 by Timber Press. Probably the most informative book with chapters on: Why butterflies matter, designing your butterfly garden, gardening for moths (and how to tell moth from butterfly, observing and enjoying butterflies and more.)

**Butterflies**, by Marcus Schneck. Rodale Press, 1990. How to identify and attract them to your garden. Great directory of what butterflies look like and their habitat range.

**Attracting Butterflies & Other Winged Wonders to Your Backyard**. By Chris Wetherbee. Lark Books, 2005.

Comprehensive directory of trees and plants for saving habitats, how to build homes and water features.

**The Butterfly Garden, Creating Beautiful Gardens to Attract Butterflies**. By Jerry Sedenko. Villard Books. 1991 Wonderful color close-ups of butterflies in adult and pupa stages with seasons and habitat.

*Book Donations: Sadly, as we have no clean storage space to store donated books, we can only accept them prior to when we are able to have a sale. (Yes we do check to see if we need in our collection before selling). Watch the newsletter for timing donations please.*

Library hours: Tuesday and Saturdays 10-12. Also after any HAH event that happens in the Community House If you need to use at another time please contact, Susan Kennedy Zeller: [SKZeller@aol.com](mailto:SKZeller@aol.com) and **Put HAH in the subject line.**



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# HAH ROUNDTABLE NOTES

## PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM

**Pamela Harwood**

On February 3rd we welcomed four terrific speakers and guests: two representatives from the Peconic Estuary Program (PEP); Vicki Bustamante, an expert on Long Island native plants and owner of Provenance Natives in Southampton; and Larry Penny, an environmentalist, and weekly contributor to the East Hampton Star.

Their website [PeconicEstuary.org](http://PeconicEstuary.org) has lots of useful information, including that an estuary is a body of water where fresh water from the land and salt water from the ocean mix together, what the boundaries are of our very own Peconic Estuary, why it's important to keep this ecosystem healthy, how we gardeners can do our bit to keep it thriving, and how PEP is giving us incentives to do so.

Through September, 2019 PEP is offering a Homeowner Rewards Program in which you can receive a one-time rebate of up to \$500 for planting native plants, installing rain gardens, and using rain barrels "in order to help reduce the amount of pollutants entering our waterways." In order to qualify for the rebate, you must submit an application that describes your plan for adding these elements to your garden, and your plan must be pre-approved. According to the flyer that was distributed at the Roundtable, "rain gardens and native plantings must be 50-square-foot minimum and rain barrels must be at least 50 gallons with mosquito-protective netting." You cannot get money back for past plantings, but you might be eligible for plants you will add to your garden. Planting with natives, creating a rain garden, and using rain barrels all help to mitigate storm water runoff that contains roadway pollutants and excessive garden and lawn nutrients like nitrogen.

To educate the consumer and make the application process easier, PEP has updated its website and, among many other informative sections, it now includes a Peconic-friendly plant database. At the Roundtable I had the site up on our library computer and Vicki noted that the first entry, *Abelia x grandiflora*, is not native. It was explained that the 386 plants on this list include plants that do well on the East End as well as New York natives. Each entry features a photograph, a description, and a notation of whether or not the plant is native to New York. There are links to filter this extensive list by Native-only, Attracts Wildlife, Deer Resistance, Light Requirements, Soil Type and PH, Soil Moisture, Drought and Salt Tolerance. You can also search plants by type: Fern, Flower, Grass, Groundcover, Shrub, Tree, and Vine.

Per their website, "Storm water filtered through the soil, sand and gravel within rain or native plant gardens is dramatically cleaner when it enters our groundwater, nearby bodies of water and storm drains. Rain barrels offer an opportunity to catch rainwater from roof runoff for reuse in gardens rather than letting the water flow over paved surfaces and into storm drains, nearby bodies of water and groundwater." Your driveway and nearby roads have a surface residue of gasoline and other chemicals and your garden or lawn may contain synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides that would not be needed by native plants.



Some of the things you can do to create a Peconic-friendly garden, and become eligible for the rebate, include Remove Impervious Surfaces, Remove Invasive Plants (defined as non-native species that can cause harm to the environment, the economy, or to human health), Add Beds Around the Houses, Harvest Rainwater, Attract Pollinators, Start a Vegetable Garden, and Create a Low-Impact Lawn. Working with the website's design tool, I created this Peconic-friendly garden that incorporates all these elements.

At the **HAH Annual Garden Fair on May 18th and 19th**, we'll be selling native plants and will provide purchase receipts to assist in your application, should you choose to take advantage of the program. We recommend that you create your plan now, submit it to PEP, get it approved, and then **SHOP THE HAH PLANT FAIR IN MAY!!**

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# SPICE

HAH Board member and manager of Bridge Gardens, Rick Bogusch, spoke eloquently of the long history and use of many familiar and unfamiliar herbs and spices at the HAH lecture on February 11th. After his talk we enjoyed a tasting of many of the dishes that can be made by blending several spices together. Rick prepared the dishes himself and the general agreement amongst attendees was that this was one of the best HAH events ever held! Rick sure warmed us up on a cold winter's day! Here are a few of the recipes given to us by Rick. The spice mix recipes are from The Complete Book of Spices by Jill Norman. A longer list is at the HAH library for you to copy.

This blend of peppercorns, nutmeg, cloves and ginger is perfect for any long-simmering stew, as a dry rub on poultry or meat before roasting or grilling and to flavor vegetables like carrots and parsnips. Variations abound and often herbs like rosemary and thyme are added to the mix.

## FOUR SPICE POWDER (QUATRE EPICES)

5 tsp black peppercorns  
2 tsp grated nutmeg  
1 tsp whole cloves  
1 tsp ground ginger

Grind all ingredients to a fine powder.

Store airtight 3-4 months. Sometimes a cinnamon stick or 1 teaspoon allspice berries are also added.

## CARROTS WITH FOUR SPICE POWDER

1 ½ lbs carrots  
1 tbs unsalted butter  
1 tsp. four spice powder  
2 tsp sugar  
1/3 cup water

Combine ingredients in a heavy skillet and cook covered over medium-low heat until carrots are tender, about 15 minutes. Stir occasionally. Uncover and cook until water has evaporated and a thick glaze has formed, about 5 more minutes. Season with coarse salt and serve.

## FIVE SPICE POWDER

1 tbs. star anise ( around 5)  
1 tbs. Sichuan peppercorns (not black peppercorn)  
2 cinnamon sticks, broken into pieces  
1 tbs fennel seeds  
1/2 tbs. whole cloves

Grind all ingredients together and store in airtight container for 3-4 months.

## SPICY CASHEWS

2 tsp. peanut oil (or another oil if allergy to peanuts)  
2 tsp dark brown sugar  
1/2 tsp five spice powder  
1/2 tsp cumin  
1/4 tsp ground black pepper  
1/4 tsp cayenne  
2 tsp water  
1 cup roasted, unsalted cashews  
1/2 tsp Kosher salt

Preheat oven to 350 °F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Heat oil in medium saucepan over medium heat. Add brown sugar, spices and water and stir until sugar dissolves and mixture bubbles. Add cashews, cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly until nuts are well coated.

Spread nuts onto parchment paper using 2 forks to separate them from each other. Sprinkle with salt and bake for 7 minutes until fragrant. Cool and serve in bowls, or store in container.



## Musings & Ramblings

### George Biercuk

December, the tenth month of the Roman calendar (which started in our March (time of vernal equinox), the last of a numbered quartet, now heralding, not reawakening, but the onset of a deepening frozen grip upon the landscape) exacted revenge for this slight this season. January, named for the two faced Roman god Janus (duplicity) was in league. As we were lulled, during December, into a sense of continuously comforting warmth while distracted by the Great American Potlatch, cold, unrelenting cold and wind overpowered our landscape. Though we were warned in advance that “cold weather was about to descend upon us”, its intensity was shocking nonetheless. December, in its waning days, hammered us with intensely deep cold and wind, freezing plants, with foliage at attention leeward from the unrelenting wind, at full staff attention. Janus, early in his reign, holding us tightly, ever so tightly, in his breathtakingly frozen grip, commanded our complete subservience. We dutifully hunkered down indoors and when we did dare to or had to venture outdoors we were suitably entombed in warm clothing. It was so cold that on Sunday morning, January 7, at dawn, there was skim ice on the ocean. We experienced zone 6 cold for the first time in a long time. Coincidentally, in the winter of 1917, a century ago, the ocean froze to such a depth that people were able to enjoy themselves on the ice.



Unfortunately, for all our gardens, plant material was left to fend for itself, having no cozy retreats or warming shrouds. I've read that the current thinking is that plants don't respond to “wind chill” as we do by “feeling” colder than the actual temperature. Has anyone gotten, FROM A PLANT, corroboration? They certainly do respond to strong, blustery unrelenting wind, especially when the ground is frozen and the ground responded to the arctic cold by freezing to about eighteen inches deep thus depriving evergreen plants access to ground moisture, resulting in desiccation. The twelve inch snow cover helped by reducing the depth of ground freezing and also shielding ground plants, mainly perennials, from the worst of the cold. A possible silver lining to the deep cold and depth of frozen ground could be death of a large portion of the marauding hoards of voles which are primarily opportunistic surface critters which avail themselves of mole tunnels when necessary. Moles tunnel deep, below the frost line, thus helping them to successfully overwinter. I wonder if they tolerate voles cohabiting with them. Another side benefit could be a killing-off of the pine bark beetles that are ravaging the pitch pines.

The adverse effects of the cold and wind were quick to manifest themselves. Within two weeks of the cold breaking wind burn was showing. *Daphne odora aureomarginata* (Z 7-9) was the first. Her leaf edges initially showed brown edges on the upper parts of the plant which quickly spread throughout those leaves while the lower portion of the plant, which was covered with snow, appeared to be untouched. Within days the upper portions began to drop leaves until only bare branches remained. Initially the flower buds looked plump but shortly later it was clear that they were dead. The lower reaches then began to show brown edges and what appeared to be viable flower buds. Only time would tell if they survived.

*Osmanthus goshiki* (Z 7-9) also was a victim but in an odd way. The south facing side, only, of our plants showed browning. Perhaps the sunlight initially exacerbated desiccation on this side and eventually the condition would spread to the rest of the plant though as I'm writing that hasn't happened. *Helleborus foetidus* (Z 6-9) fell victim to their eagerness to bloom, starting in early December. Some young plants which weren't flowering had scorched foliage while the foliage of mature plants was untouched though the flowers were another story. The ones most advanced were badly burnt while the laggards held the potential for unmarred flowering. Time would tell.

*Camellia sasanqua* “Jean May” (Z 7A), which bloomed her heart out last year, still being in bloom when we left February 27, didn't repeat that performance, ceasing blooming in mid-December this year. After an early cold snap in December she pushed out a few more flowers then retired for the season. Her foliage was showing no signs of scorching. *C. japonica* “April Remembered” (to Z 6) had flower buds that were showing the first signs of breaking (thin white lines at the tips) but they appeared to be unscathed. *C. kumasaka* and “Terry Gilley” (both to Z 6) appeared to be unfazed by the weather.

*Gardenia jasminoids* “Crown Jewel” (Z 7-10), planted spring 2017, initially looked okay since they were covered with snow but as the month progressed they too were browning. I was going to wrap them but I was lulled by a balmy December. Like they say “You snooze you lose”. We've tried other hardy gardenias over the years and had brief success. I was seduced by warming winters over the past few years and will probably pay the price. Though we've just experienced another year of record planet-wide warmth, we have to expect wide fluctuations in localized weather conditions as Gaia adjusts toward normalization of a rapidly warming planet. As the northern jet stream is thrown into wonkiness, in the interim we will experience wide swings of heat and cold. There will be death in the garden in the season resurrection because of the record cold.

Happily I took advantage of December's warmth to rechip most of the paths in the rear garden thus eliminating the bulk one spring chore. On warm days I cruise through the garden picking up twigs and branches that endlessly litter the garden, a small price to pay for Gaia's gift of shade during summer's heat.

The garden awakens. We're near the vernal equinox. Enjoy the upcoming season.



## HAH 2018 SUNDAY MONTHLY LECTURES - 2 PM - BH Community House

*All lectures are free to members, \$10 for not-yet-members. Memberships start at \$45. Please join us!*

*There are no lectures in July & August*

**March 11** – Bill Noble – *Imaginary Gardens with Real Toads in Them*

**April 8** – Thomas Mickey – *America's Romance with the English Garden*

**May 6** – Diane Barthel-Bouchier – *Botanical Art: A Continuing Tradition*

**June 10** – Ken Greene – *The Wonder of Seeds*

**September 9** – Lynden Miller – *The Designer's Eye*

**October 14** – Anne Haines - *Fragrant Plants*

**November 11** – Jane Garmey – *A Sense of Place – An inside Look at a Wide Variety of Private Gardens in Connecticut & the Hudson Valley*

**December 9** – Donald W. Hyatt – *Chasing the Bloom in the Southern Appalachians*

## HAH and other GARDEN EVENTS

### March 2018

**Saturday, March 3**, 10:00 am - HAH Roundtable, in the HAH Library, see p. 1 for details.

**Sunday, March 11**, 2:00 pm - HAH Lecture, in the big hall at the Community House, Bridgehampton., see p. 1.

**Saturday, March 17**, 11:00 am - HAH Book Group, in the HAH Library, see p. 2.

**Wednesday, March 7**, 6:30 pm - Madoo in Manhattan, Todd Longstaffe-Gowan on [The Dramatic Potential of Landscape](#), 122 E 66th Street, NY, \$125 Madoo members, \$150 non-members. [alejandro@madoo.org](mailto:alejandro@madoo.org)

**Sunday, March 11**, 12:00 pm - Madoo Winter Lectures with Christopher LaGuardia, Madoo Conservancy, 618 Sagg Main St., Sagaponack, NY 631-537-8200 - \$20 Madoo members, \$25 non-members. [madoo.org](http://madoo.org)

**Saturday, March 17**, 1:00 pm - Late Winter Walk with Horticulturalist Alex Feleppa, Longhouse Reserve, 133 Hands Creek Road, East Hampton, free for Longhouse members, \$20 non-members. [longhouse.org](http://longhouse.org)

**Wednesday, March 21**, 6pm, Wave Hill Lecture Series, Timothy Young, Paper Trails: Writers and Gardens in the Archives. The New York School of Interior Design, 170 E.70 St., NYC. \$25 tickets at [wavehill.org](http://wavehill.org)

**Saturday, March 24**, 10:00 am, Introduction to Beekeeping with Peconic Land Trust, Bridge Gardens, 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton, free for BG members, \$5 non-members. 631.283.3195 ext 19 or [peconiclandtrust.org](http://peconiclandtrust.org).

**The NYBG orchid show starts March 3 and ends April 22, 2018**



# HAH Happenings March 2018

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the Hamptons  
Bridgehampton Community House  
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